GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3210
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Coordination of Relief Measures
Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture co-ordinates the mandatory relief measures for drought, hailstorms and pest attacks;

(b) the details of the works done to co-ordinate the said mandatory relief measures during the last year and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the assistance in the form of relief work has been provided very late to the affected States; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): In accordance with the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with "Coordination of relief measures necessitated by drought, hailstorm, pest attacks, and cold wave/ frost".

(b) to (d): The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities and are empowered to initiate immediate relief measures to address the situation arising out of drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments with financial assistance. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

Contdâ€¦2/-

If fund available in SDRF is insufficient to cater to relief operations, State can request additional central assistance over and above SDRF for natural calamities of severe nature, from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) by submitting a detailed relief memorandum to the Central Government. On receipt of such a Memorandum, Central Government constitutes an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to visit the affected areas, assess the situation and submit a report on assessment of damages for recommending appropriate central assistance to the State. The report of the IMCT is considered by the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) which recommends assistance from NDRF as per extant norms. The recommendation of SC-NEC is then placed before the High Level Committee (HLC) for consideration and approval of appropriate central assistance from NDRF. On receipt of approval of HLC, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, in consultation with MHA releases admissible central assistance to the State from NDRF.

A number of States were affected by drought and hailstorm of varying magnitude during last year(2015-16) and current year (2016-17). Memorandum received from the affected States for assistance from NDRF were considered in accordance with the established procedure and State-wise details of assistance sought and approved by the Government of India from NDRF are indicated in the statements annexed as Annexure.

Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Governments.